

## **Minutes of 2013 AGM, 13<sup>th</sup> March 2014:**

### **Wivenhoe Old Quay Residents' Association (WOQRA)**

Executive members present: Aulay Mackenzie (Chair), Bernard Horan (Secretary). Committee members: Simon Page. 12 other members present; Apologies from Keith Baker (committee member), Sandra Ellesley (Treasurer), John Forrest (committee member), Jean Hackworthy, Sarah Stanton,

Meeting opened 19:30 and chaired by Aulay Mackenzie.

### **Road Adoption**

BH restated the contents of the in the 2013 Annual Report: the site's roads were adopted late in 2013 after a wait of 12 years and thus Essex County Council Highways department (ECH) is now responsible for maintenance and traffic management, including parking.

Many members expressed concern about the decision taken by the North Essex Parking Partnership (NEPP) last August which placed a five year delay between road adoption and parking restrictions—meaning that residents will now have to wait until 2018 for parking restrictions to be implemented on a development that was constructed in 2001. BH reported that the Residents' Association had been advised by the NEPP in 2012 that we should wait for the roads to be adopted before attempting to apply for parking restrictions, and yet in 2013 NEPP took the decision to impose the five year delay. The NEPP appears to be an anti-democratic quango that has no accountability to citizens of North Essex. From our discussions with ECC Councillor Julie Young, it appears that Essex County Council are unable to overturn or influence any decision made by the NEPP and that as taxpayers we have no say in the way in which our taxes are used by the NEPP. Residents are encouraged to voice concerns about this to any stakeholders, including Bernard Jenkin as the Constituency MP.

There followed a brief discussion about the continuing parking problems along Old Ferry Road, Admiral's Walk and Shipwrights. BH mentioned that earlier AGMs had considered various suggestions including parking permits and restricted hours (such as 'parking for one hour, no return within three hours'). Members were concerned that any parking restrictions at the entry to the site would simply cause parking problems further into the site, and that any parking restrictions would require consultation for the whole of the site, not just those roads currently affected. (One member reported that commuters were now parking in Shipwrights, blocking access to Dry Dock.) Some members offered an alternative parking restriction: no parking for two hours in the middle of the day.

BH also indicated that Persimmon were attempting to hand over West Quay to Essex County Highways, and members present at the AGM wished to express their support for Persimmon. Members noted that West Quay was a highway, used daily by cyclists and pedestrians. It was also brought to the attention of the AGM that Wivenhoe Town Council (WTC) appears to believe that it has authority over West Quay: it has given permission for the installation of benches and lifebelts. Furthermore, it was noted that WTC provides support for community activities on West Quay such as the annual Crabbing Competition and Wivenhoe Regatta. Members expressed concern that if ECH did not adopt the road, Wivenhoe and the wider community would not be able to enjoy access to a significant community resource.

### **Officers**

The current officers and committee members were unopposed; no further members were proposed.

## **Any Other Business**

### **Site Maintenance**

There was considerable anger and frustration that Persimmon had failed to undertake the maintenance work that they had indicated they would complete in 2013, including the draining and refilling of the water feature, the replacement of trees, and the refurbishment of street furniture. BH reported that Persimmon's contractor had been waiting for over a year for authorisation to begin the work.

Given the lack of progress, members expressed their wish for the Residents' Association to take action to replace the tree in Dry Dock, and to refurbish the iron benches that look onto the water feature, incurring the costs to do so (providing that they fall within the budget of the Association). However, members also expressed their views that this action may mean that Persimmon no longer take responsibility for any maintenance issues on the site.

**AI:** BH to obtain quotes for the work to be undertaken and to instruct contractors accordingly.

### **Rowhedge Development**

Members reported on the recent planning application to redevelop Rowhedge Wharf directly opposite West Quay. Some members had received notification of the planning application, whereas others had only received notification of the statutory roadworks that are to be constructed. Those members who had attended the consultation meeting indicated that the development was of a similar style to the Persimmon development. However, there was some concern about the significant amount of work that would be required to remove the existing wharf (in terms of noise and dust). Members informed the meeting that they understood that the full planning application was likely to be submitted in Autumn 2014 with work beginning in 2015.

**AI:** BH to provide links to the planning application on the WOQRA website.

There being no further AOB the meeting was closed at 20:00

*Minutes prepared by Bernard Horan*